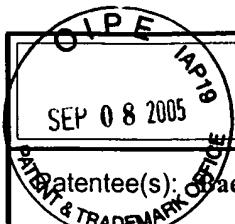


10/085520

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(General - Patent Issued)

Docket No.
112300-590

SEP 08 2005

Patentee(s): Baerlocher et al.

U.S. Patent No.

6,786,819 B2

Issue Date

September 7, 2004

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD OF OPERATING A GAMING DEVICE HAVING A CENTRAL GAME AND A PLURALITY OF PERIPHERAL GAMES

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Transmitted herewith is:

Certificate of Correction (in duplicate); Request for Certificate of Correction (2 pages); Copy of listing of claims from Amendment filed on March 16, 2004 (22 pages); and Return Receipt Postcard

**Certificate
SEP 15 2005
of Correction**

- No additional fee is required.
- A check in the amount of _____ is attached.
- The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account 02-1818 as described below.
 - Charge the amount of _____
 - Credit any overpayment.
 - Charge any additional fee required.
- Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

Signature

Dated: September 6, 2005

**Adam H. Masia
Reg. No. 35,602
Customer No. 29159**

Customer No.: 29159

CC:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on

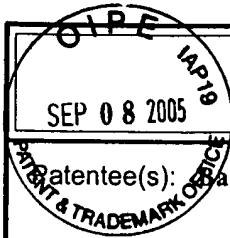
September 6, 2005

(Date)

Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Heather Foster

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence



**TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(General - Patent Issued)**

Docket No.
112300-590

Patentee(s): Baerlocher et al.

U.S. Patent No.

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(Date)

Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Heather Foster

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO : 6,786,819 B2

DATED : September 7, 2004

INVENTOR(S) : Baerlocher et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In Claim 1, column 17, line 57, change "peripheral game games includes" to --peripheral games includes--

In Claim 20, column 18, lines 60-61, change "the plurality of transfer components are is selected by a player" to -- the plurality of transfer components are selected by a player --

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:

PATENT NO. 6,786,819

No. of additional copies

→ 1

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO : **6,786,819 B2**

DATED : **September 7, 2004**

INVENTOR(S) : **Baerlocher et al.**

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In Claim 1, column 17, line 57, change "peripheral game games includes" to --peripheral games includes--

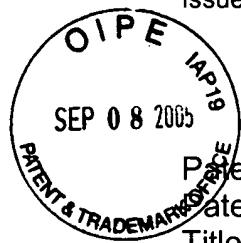
In Claim 20, column 18, lines 60-61, change "the plurality of transfer components are is selected by a player" to -- the plurality of transfer components are selected by a player --

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PATENT NO. **6,786,819**

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patentees: Anthony J. Baerlocher et al.
Patent No.: 6,786,819 B2
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD OF OPERATING A GAMING DEVICE
HAVING A CENTRAL GAME AND PLURALITY OF PERIPHERAL
GAMES
Issue Date: September 7, 2004
Docket No.: 112300-590

ATTN: Certificate of Correction Branch
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.322**

Dear Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the above-referenced patent be amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

In Claim 1, column 17, line 57, change "peripheral game games includes" to --
peripheral games includes--

In Claim 20, column 18, lines 60-61, change "the plurality of transfer components
are is selected by a player" to -- the plurality of transfer components are selected by a
player --

REMARKS

Upon careful review of recently issued U.S. Patent No. 6,786,819 B2, the above-listed errors were noted. Patentees submit this request for correction to the claims in order to correct these errors. No new matter has been added by any of these amendments, and this patent does not require reexamination.

Patentees respectfully submit that the above-disclosed mistakes are the fault of the Patent Office. Therefore, Patentees hereby request the issuance of a Certificate of Correction pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.322. Patentees are submitting herewith a copy of a listing of the claims as made of record by the Patentees in the Response to Office Action dated March 16, 2004. In addition, Patentees are submitting herewith a proposed Certificate of Correction. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any insufficiency or credit the account for any overpayment.

Patentees respectfully solicit the granting of the requested Certificate of Correction.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

By:



Adam H. Masia
Reg. No. 35,602
Customer No. 29159

Dated: September 6, 2005

SEP 15 2005



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Baerlocher et al.
Appl. No.: 10/085,520
Conf. No.: 2751
Filed: February 28, 2002
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD OF OPERATING A GAMING DEVICE
HAVING A CENTRAL GAME AND A PLURALITY OF PERIPHERAL
GAMES
Art Unit: 3713
Examiner: J. Brockett
Docket No.: 0112300-590

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 10, 2003, and in accordance with the telephone interview conducted on November 19, 2003, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 17 of this paper.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:
a central game including a plurality of first selections and at least one player selectable transfer to a peripheral game outcome associated with one of the first selections; and

a plurality of peripheral games, wherein at least one of the peripheral game games includes a plurality of second selections and a player selectable return to the central game outcome associated with one of the second selections and a player selectable transfer to another peripheral game outcome associated with one of the second selections, wherein the player selectable transfer to another peripheral game outcome causes a transfer to another one of said other peripheral games.

Claim 2 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the peripheral games includes a plurality of the return to the central game outcomes.

Claim 3 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the peripheral games includes a plurality of transfer to another peripheral game outcomes.

Claim 4 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the central game or at least one of the peripheral games includes at least one game terminator.

Claim 5 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the central game or at least one of the peripheral games includes at least one award.

Claim 6 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein each of the peripheral games includes a return to the central game outcome.

Claim 7 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein each of the peripheral games includes a transfer to another peripheral game outcome.

Claim 8 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the peripheral games includes a game terminator.

Claim 9 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the central game includes a plurality of transfer to a peripheral game outcomes, each said transfer associated with one of said peripheral games.

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the transfer to a peripheral game outcome in the central game includes a plurality of transfer components each associated with different ones of the first selections.

Claim 12 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the central game includes at least one game terminator outcome.

Claim 13 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the central game includes at least one award outcome.

Claim 14 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the central game and the peripheral games are displayed on a single display.

Claim 15 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the central game and the peripheral games are displayed on separate displays.

Claim 16 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein each of the peripheral games is displayed on a separate display.

Claim 17 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the central game and the peripheral games is displayed on an electromechanical device.

Claim 18 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the central game and the peripheral games is displayed on a wheel.

Claim 19 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the central game and the peripheral games are each displayed on a separate wheel.

Claim 20 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein the separate wheels are displayed on a single display device.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:
a central game including a plurality of first selections and a transfer to a peripheral game outcome associated with one of the first selections or a plurality of transfer component outcomes each associated with different ones of the first selections; and

a plurality of peripheral games, at least one of which includes a plurality of second selections and a return to central game outcome associated with one of the second selections or and a transfer to another peripheral game outcome associated with another one of the second selections, wherein the peripheral game is played after the transfer or the plurality of transfer components are selected by a player, and wherein the central game is replayed after the return outcome is selected by the player.

Claim 22 (original): The gaming device of Claim 21, which includes a plurality of peripheral games and a corresponding transfer outcome or a plurality of transfer components for each peripheral game.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 21, ~~which includes a plurality of peripheral games, and wherein one of the peripheral games is randomly chosen after the transfer or the plurality of transfer components are~~ is selected.

Claim 24 (original): The gaming device of Claim 21, wherein the central game and the peripheral games each include at least one award outcome.

Claim 25 (original): The gaming device of Claim 24, wherein the at least one award outcome of the central game has a different value than the at least one award outcome of the peripheral games.

Claim 26 (original): The gaming device of Claim 21, wherein one of the central game and the peripheral games includes an award outcome.

Claim 27 (original): The gaming device of Claim 21, wherein one of the central game and the peripheral games includes a game terminator outcome.

Claim 28 (original): The gaming device of Claim 21, wherein the central game and said peripheral games each include a game terminator outcome.

Claim 29 (original): The gaming device of Claim 21, wherein the central game includes a plurality of transfer outcomes and each of the peripheral games includes the return outcome or the transfer to another peripheral game outcome.

Claim 30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

a central game including a plurality of first selections and a plurality of player selectable transfer to a peripheral game outcomes each associated with a different one of the first selections; and

a plurality of peripheral games each including a plurality of second selections, a player selectable return to the central game outcome associated with one of said second selections of said peripheral game or and a player selectable transfer to another peripheral game outcome associated with one of said second selections of said peripheral game, wherein (i) a player initially plays the central game, (ii) the player plays one of the peripheral games after said player picks one of the transfer outcomes, (iii) the player plays the central game again if the player picks the return outcome in the played peripheral game, and (iv) the player plays another peripheral game if the player picks the transfer to another peripheral game outcome in the played peripheral game.

Claim 32 (original): The gaming device of Claim 31, wherein one of the transfer outcomes in the central game includes a plurality of player selectable transfer components.

Claim 33 (original): The gaming device of Claim 31, wherein the central game and each peripheral game include at least one award outcome.

Claim 34 (original): The gaming device of Claim 31, wherein the transfer outcomes in the central game can be reselected so that the player plays the same peripheral game more than once.

Claim 35 (original): The gaming device of Claim 31, wherein the transfer outcomes in the central game cannot be reselected so that the player cannot replay the peripheral games.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

a central game including a plurality of first selections and at least one player selectable central game award outcome associated with one of the first selections, at least one player selectable central game termination outcome associated with another one of said first selections, and a plurality of player selectable peripheral game transfers to a plurality of different peripheral games each associated with other different ones of the first selections;

each peripheral game including a plurality of second selections, at least one peripheral game award associated with one of said second selections of said peripheral game, at least one central game return award associated with another one of said second selections of said peripheral game, and at least one peripheral game transfer award associated with another one of said second selections of said peripheral game;

a display device operable to that displays the central game, central game award outcome, central game terminator outcome, peripheral game transfers, peripheral game outcomes and central game returns; and

a processor which controls the central game, peripheral game and display device.

Claim 37 (original): The gaming device of Claim 36, which includes at least one termination outcome associated with at least one of the peripheral games.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A method for operating a gaming device, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) enabling a player to play a central game that includes a plurality of first selections and at least one player selectable transfer to a peripheral game outcome associated with one of the first selections;
- (b) transferring to a first peripheral game when the transfer outcome is selected by the player;
- (c) enabling the player to play the first peripheral game, the first peripheral game including a plurality of second selections and a player selectable return to the central game outcome associated with one of the second selections and a player selectable transfer to another peripheral game outcome associated with another one of the second selections;
- (d) transferring back to the central game if the return outcome is selected by the player and enabling the player to play the central game; and
- (e) transferring to a second peripheral game if the transfer to another peripheral game outcome is selected by the player and enabling the player to play the second peripheral game.

Claim 39 (original): The method of Claim 38, which includes a plurality of peripheral games, a transfer outcome for a plurality of the peripheral games and repeating steps (a) to (e) a plurality of times.

Claim 40 (canceled)

Claim 41 (original): The method of Claim 38, wherein transferring to the first peripheral game from the central game includes playing the first peripheral game on a different electromechanical device than a device on which the central game is played.

Claim 42 (original): The method of Claim 41, wherein the electromechanical devices are spinning wheels.

Claim 43 (original): The method of Claim 38, wherein transferring to the second peripheral game from the first peripheral game includes playing the second peripheral game on a different electromechanical device than a device on which the first peripheral game is played.

Claim 44 (original): The method of Claim 43, wherein the first and second peripheral games are played on electromechanical spinning wheels.

Claim 45 (original): The method of Claim 38, wherein the steps (a) to (e) are provided to the player through a data network.

Claim 46 (original): The method of Claim 45, wherein the data network is an internet.

Claim 47 (new): A gaming device comprising:

a central game including a plurality of first selections, at least one of said first selections including a transfer to another game;

a plurality of peripheral games, at least one of said peripheral games including a plurality of second selections, at least one of said second selections including a transfer to said central game, and at least one of said second selections including a transfer to another one of said peripheral games;

a display device operable to display the central and peripheral games; and

a processor operable with the display device to enable a player to pick at least one of said first selections in said central game, initiate one of said peripheral games if the player picks one of said first selections including a transfer to said peripheral game, enable a player to pick at least one of said second selections in said peripheral game if said player picks one of the first selections including a transfer to said peripheral game, initiate another of said peripheral games if the player picks one of the second selections including a transfer to said another peripheral game and transfer the player to the central game if the player picks one of the second selections including the transfer to said central game.

Claim 48 (new): The gaming device of Claim 47, wherein the plurality of peripheral games includes a first peripheral game including the transfer to the central game and the transfer to another of said peripheral games, and a second peripheral game including a transfer to said first peripheral game.

Claim 49 (new): The gaming device of Claim 47, wherein the plurality of peripheral games includes a first peripheral game including the transfer to the central game and a plurality of transfers to other of said peripheral games, a second peripheral game including a transfer to said first peripheral game, and a third peripheral game including a transfer to said central game.

Claim 50 (new): The gaming device of Claim 47, wherein the plurality of peripheral games includes a first peripheral game including the transfer to another of said peripheral games, and a second peripheral game including a transfer to the central game and a transfer to said first peripheral game.

Claim 51 (new): The gaming device of Claim 47, wherein the plurality of peripheral games includes a first peripheral game including the transfer to the central game and a plurality of transfers to other of said peripheral games, a second peripheral game including a transfer to said first peripheral game, a third peripheral game including a transfer to said central game, and a fourth peripheral game including a transfer to said third peripheral game.

Claim 52 (new): The gaming device of Claim 47, wherein the plurality of peripheral games includes a first peripheral game including the transfer to the central game and a plurality of transfers to other of said peripheral games, a second peripheral game including a transfer to said central game, and a third peripheral game including a transfer to said second peripheral game.

Claim 53 (new): The gaming device of Claim 47, wherein the plurality of peripheral games includes a first peripheral game including the transfer to the central game and a plurality of transfers to other of said peripheral games, a second peripheral game including a transfer to said first peripheral game, a third peripheral game including a transfer to said central game, a fourth peripheral game including a transfer to said third peripheral game, and a fifth peripheral game including a transfer to said central game.

Claim 54 (new): A gaming device comprising:

a display device;

a central game displayed by said display device, said central game including a plurality of first selections, said first selections including at least one award, at least one terminator and at least one transfer to one of a plurality of different peripheral games;

a plurality of peripheral games, at least one of said peripheral games including a plurality of second selections, said second selections including at least one award, at least one terminator, at least one transfer to one of the peripheral games and at least one transfer to the central game; and

a processor operable with the display device to enable a player to pick one of said first selections in said central game, provide an award to the player when the player picks the first selection including the award, terminate the central game when the player picks the first selection including the terminator, initiate one of said peripheral games when the player picks the first selection including a transfer to said peripheral game, enable a player to pick one of said second selections in said peripheral game when said player picks the first selection including the transfer to said peripheral game, provide the award to the player when the player picks the second selection including the award, initiate another of said peripheral games when the player picks the second selection including the transfer to said another peripheral game, transfer the player to the central game when the player picks one of the second selections including the transfer to said central game and terminate the peripheral game when the player picks the second selection including the terminator.

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated October 10, 2003, and in accordance with the telephone interview courteously granted by the Examiner on November 19, 2003. Claims 1, 11, 21, 23, 31, 36 and 38 have been amended. New Claims 47 to 54 have been added. Claims 10, 30 and 40 have been canceled. No new matter has been added by the amendments made herein. A Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time to Respond to the Office Action is submitted herewith. A check in the amount of \$1,212.00 to cover the fees for the three month extension and the additional claims is submitted herewith. Please charge deposit account number 02-1818 for any insufficiency or to credit any overpayment.

The Office Action rejected:

- (a) Claims 1, 4 to 6, 8, 11 to 13, 15, 17, 18, 31 to 34, and 38 to 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,375,567 B1 to Acres ("Acres");
- (b) Claims 21 to 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,364,766 B1 to Anderson ("Anderson");
- (c) Claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acres;
- (d) Claims 2, 3, 7, 10, 14 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acres in view of UK Patent Application No. GB 214644 A to Barrie ("Barrie");
- (e) Claims 9, 16, 36 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acres in view of Anderson; and
- (f) Claim 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acres in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,343,988 B1 to Walker et al. ("Walker").

I. Acres Does Not Disclose “Player Selectable” Components

Regarding the rejections of Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11 to 13, 15, 17, 18, 31 to 34 and 38 to 45 under §102(e), amended Claim 1 is directed to a gaming device including a central game including a plurality of first selections and one player selectable transfer to a peripheral game outcome associated with one of the first selections. The gaming device also includes a plurality of peripheral games where at least one of the peripheral games includes a plurality of second selections, a player selectable return to the central game outcome associated with one of the second selections, and a player selectable transfer to another peripheral game outcome associated with another one of the second selections. The peripheral game outcome causes a transfer to one of the other peripheral games. Applicants respectfully submit that Acres does not disclose the combination of elements of amended Claim 1.

Under § 102, a reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. See, MPEP 706.02(a). Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present.

The Office Action states that Acres discloses a “gaming device comprising a central game including at least one player selectable transfer to a peripheral game outcome. The gaming device includes a plurality of peripheral games, where at least one peripheral game includes a player selectable return to the central game outcome and a transfer to another peripheral game outcome.” (See page 2). However, Acres does not disclose, teach or suggest a plurality of first and second selections and a player selectable transfer to a peripheral game outcome associated with one of the first selections or to at least one peripheral game that includes a player selectable return to the central game outcome associated with one of the second selections and a player selectable transfer to another peripheral game outcome associated with one of the second selections.

Acres is directed to a method and apparatus for implementing a secondary game responsive to player interaction with a primary game. Specifically, Acres teaches a method for “operating a group of gaming machines interconnected by a network to play both primary and secondary games from the machines.” (Col. 2, lines 49 to 52). Acres

states that upon the occurrence of a triggering event in the primary game, a secondary game is initiated from one of the gaming machines where the secondary game is common to the group of gaming machines. (Col. 2, lines 62 to 65). The triggering event is detected by monitoring an operating parameter of the gaming machines over the network such as the total coin plate. (Col. 2, lines 55 to 60). When the operating parameter is met the triggering event occurs and the secondary game is initiated. A secondary game (i.e., a peripheral game) is not initiated by a player selectable transfer to the peripheral game. Instead, the gaming device triggers the secondary game when a predetermined operating parameter occurs in the primary game. Similarly, Acres teaches that a tertiary game is initiated upon a second occurrence of the triggering event in the secondary game. Acres does not disclose, teach or suggest a tertiary game or another peripheral game being initiated from the secondary game based on a selection picked by a player. Acres does not disclose, teach or suggest a selection-type game or that a player may pick any type of selections in the game.

As described in Acres, the triggering event occurs when a player obtains a certain reel symbol or combination on the reels in a game. However, the player is not selecting the reel symbol or the symbol combination that triggers the secondary game. Instead, the gaming device or processor is randomly determining when the triggering event occurs on the reels. Although Acres teaches an actuating button or spin button 14 configured to initiate the primary game and which can also be configured to initiate the secondary game, the spin button 14 merely initiates the game once the designated number of coins are inputted in the primary game or when a triggering event triggers the secondary game. The button 14 does not enable the player to initiate the secondary game from the play of the primary game (i.e., by selecting selections) or initiate any other peripheral game from the primary game or secondary game (i.e., by selecting selections) unless the triggering event has occurred in the game. For these reasons, Acres does not disclose the combination of the elements of amended Claim 1. Therefore, amended Claim 1 and Claims 2 to 9 and 11 to 20, which depend from amended Claim 1, are each patentably distinguished over Acres and are in condition for allowance.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 31 under § 102, amended Claim 31 is directed to a gaming device including a central game having a plurality of first selections and plurality of player selectable transfers to peripheral game outcomes each associated with a different one of the first selections. The gaming device also includes a plurality of peripheral games each including a plurality of second selections, a player selectable return to the central game outcome associated with one of said second selections of said peripheral game and a player selectable transfer to another peripheral game outcome associated with one of said second selections of said peripheral game. The gaming device enables the player to initially play the central game where the player plays one of the peripheral games after the player picks one of the peripheral games after the player picks one of the transfer outcomes. The player plays the central game again if the player picks the return outcome in the played peripheral game and the player plays another peripheral game if the player picks the transfer to another peripheral game outcome in the played peripheral game. These elements are similar to the elements of Claim 1. Therefore, as described above, Acres does not disclose all of the elements of Claim 31.

In particular, Acres does not disclose a central game including a plurality of player selectable transfers to peripheral game outcomes. Additionally, Acres does not disclose a plurality of peripheral games including a player selectable return to the central game outcome and a player selectable transfer to another peripheral game outcome where the transfer to the central game or to the other peripheral game is based on the player's selection. Acres does not disclose, teach or suggest a selection game where a player picks selections to determine whether they are transferred to a central game or to another peripheral game.

For these reasons, Acres does not disclose all of the elements of amended Claim 31. Therefore, amended Claim 31 and Claims 32 to 35, which depend from amended Claim 31, are each patentably distinguished over Acres and are in condition for allowance.

Similarly, regarding the rejection of Claim 38 under § 102, amended Claim 38 is directed to a method for operating a gaming device where the method includes the

steps of enabling a player to play a central game that includes a plurality of first selections and at least one player selectable transfer to a peripheral game outcome associated with one of the first selections. The method includes transferring to a first peripheral game when the transfer outcome is selected by the player. The method includes enabling the player to play the first peripheral game where the first peripheral game includes a plurality of the second selections and a player selectable return to the central game outcome associated with one of the second selections and a player selectable transfer to another peripheral game outcome associated with another one of the second selections. The method transfers the player back to the central game if the return outcome is selected by the player and enables the player to play the central game. Alternatively, the method transfers the player to a second peripheral game if the transfer to another peripheral outcome is selected by the player and enables the player to play the second peripheral game.

As described above, Acres does not disclose the elements of enabling a player to pick selections where the selections determine whether the player is transferred back to the central game or to a peripheral game when a return outcome or a peripheral game outcome is associated with the player's picks of the selections. For these reasons, Acres does not disclose all the elements of amended Claim 38. Therefore, amended Claim 38 and Claims 39 to 46, which depend from amended Claim 38, are each patentably distinguished over Acres and are in condition for allowance.

II. Anderson Does Not Disclose "Player Selectable" Selections

Regarding the rejection of Claims 21 to 30 under § 102, amended Claim 21 is directed to a gaming device including a central game having a plurality of first selection and a player selectable transfer to a peripheral game outcome associated with one of the first selections or a plurality of player selectable transfer component outcomes associated with different ones of the selections. The gaming device also includes a plurality of peripheral games where one of which includes a plurality of second selections and a return to a central game outcome associated with one of the second

selections and a transfer to another peripheral game outcome associated with another one of the second selections where the peripheral game is played after the transfer or one of the plurality of transfer components is selected by a player. The central game is replayed after the return outcome is selected by the player. *Anderson* does not disclose all of the elements of amended Claim 21.

Anderson is directed to a gaming machine with a sorting feature where the gaming machine includes at least one digital display in a game of chance controlled by a processor. The game of chance includes a primary game and a sorting feature (see the Abstract). The base or primary game starts when a player activates a switch 18 such as a lever or button. Once the switch is activated, the central processing unit 16 activates the reels and randomly selects a game outcome. The CPU 16 then stops the reels to display the symbols corresponding to the pre-selected game outcome. (Col. 3, lines 14 to 20). Some of the basic game outcomes cause the CPU 16 to initiate a bonus mode, which shows one or more bonus games. Different bonus game outcomes trigger different bonus games. (Col. 3, lines 20 to 26). *Anderson* defines a start bonus outcome as any number of outcomes including a special start-bonus symbol or a special combination of symbols appearing on one or more of the reels 30 through 34 in any predetermined display position. (Col. 4, lines 60 to 65). However, *Anderson* does not disclose, teach or suggest a plurality of selections where the player picks a selection to reveal a transfer to a peripheral game outcome or a plurality of transfer component outcomes.

Additionally, *Anderson* states that "the basic game need not comprise a spinning reel slot machine game as illustrated in Fig. 1, but may comprise virtually any type of game of chance or skill or combination of games having outcomes (e.g., start-bonus outcomes) that trigger play of the bonus game on one or more displays." (Col. 7, lines 17 to 22). *Anderson* goes on to give examples such as a basic game comprising a video poker blackjack that does not disclose, teach or suggest a plurality of selections where a player picks the selections to transfer to a peripheral game such as in the claimed invention. As stated in *Anderson*, the outcomes are start-bonus outcomes that trigger play of the bonus game but don't include a return to the central or primary game

and a transfer to a another peripheral game or secondary game. For these reasons, *Anderson* does not disclose all of the elements of amended Claim 21. Therefore, amended Claim 21 and Claims 22 to 30, which depend from amended Claim 21 are each patentably distinguished over *Anderson* and are in condition for allowance.

III. Claims 19 and 20 are Not Obvious in View of Acres

Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Acres*. Claims 19 and 20 depend from amended Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 19 and 20 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to amended Claim 1 because *Acres* does not disclose, teach or suggest the novel elements of Claims 19 and 20 in combination with the novel elements of amended Claim 1. For these reasons, Claims 19 and 20 are patentably distinguished over *Acres*.

IV. Claims 2, 3, 7, 10, 14 and 35 are Not Obvious in View of Acres and Barrie

Claims 2, 3, 7, 10, 14 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Acres* in view of *Barrie*. Claims 2, 3, 7, 10 and 14 depend from amended Claim 1. Claim 35 depends from amended Claim 31, which includes similar elements to amended Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2, 3, 7, 10, 14 and 35 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to amended Claim 1 because the combination of *Acres* and *Barrie* does not disclose, teach or suggest the novel elements of Claims 2, 3, 7, 10, 14 and 35 in combination with the novel elements of amended Claim 1. For these reasons, Claims 2, 3, 7, 10, 14 and 35 are each patentably distinguished over the combination of *Acres* and *Barrie* and are in condition for allowance.

V. Claims 9, 16, 36 and 37 are Not Obvious in View of Acres and Anderson

Claims 9 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Acres* in view of *Anderson*. Claims 9 and 16 depend from amended Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 9 and 16 are allowable for at least

the reasons set forth above with respect to amended Claim 1 because the combination of *Acres* and *Anderson* does not disclose, teach or suggest the novel elements of Claims 9 and 16 in combination with the novel elements of amended Claim 1. For these reasons, Claims 9 and 16 are patentably distinguished over the combination of *Acres* and *Anderson* and are in condition for allowance.

Claims 36 and 37 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Acres* in view of *Anderson*. Amended Claim 36 is directed to a gaming device including a central game including a plurality of first selections and at least one player selectable central game award outcome associated with one of the first selections, at least one player selectable central game termination outcome associated with another one of the first selections and a plurality of player selectable peripheral game transfers to a plurality of different peripheral games each associated with other different ones of the first selections. Each peripheral game includes a plurality of second selections, at least one peripheral game award associated with one of the second selections of said peripheral game, at least one central game return associated with another one of said second selections of said peripheral game and at least one peripheral game transfer associated with another one of said second selections of said peripheral game. The gaming device also includes a display device that displays the central game, central game award outcome, central game terminator outcome, peripheral game transfers, peripheral game outcomes and central game returns. Additionally, the gaming device includes a processor, which controls a central game, peripheral game and the display device. The combination of *Acres* and *Anderson* does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of amended Claim 36.

As described above, *Acres* does not disclose, teach or suggest the central game including at least one player selectable central game award outcome, at least one player central game termination outcome and a plurality of player selectable peripheral game transfers to a plurality of different peripheral games. *Acres* does not disclose or suggest any type of selections or any selections made by a player that determines whether the player returns to a central game or another peripheral game or enters a peripheral game from a central game. Additionally, *Anderson* does not disclose, teach

or suggest any of these elements such as a player selectable central game award outcome, at least one player selectable central game termination outcome and a plurality of player selectable peripheral game transfers to a plurality of different peripheral games. For these reasons, either *Acres* or *Anderson*, when taken alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest the elements of amended Claim 36. Therefore, amended Claim 36 and Claim 37, which depends from amended Claim 36, are each patentably distinguished over the combination of *Acres* and *Anderson*, and are in condition for allowance.

VI. Claim 46 is Not Obvious in View of Acres and Walker

Claim 46 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Acres* in view of *Walker*. Claim 46 depends from amended Claim 38. Therefore, Claim 46 is allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to amended Claim 1, and for the further reasons that the combination of *Acres* and *Walker* fails to disclose, teach or suggest the novel elements of Claim 46 in combination with the novel elements of amended Claim 1. For these reasons, Claim 46 is patentably distinguished over the combination of *Acres* and *Walker* and is in condition for allowance.

VII. New Claims 47 to 54

New Claims 47 to 54 are each patentably distinguished from the references cited in the Office Action and are in condition for allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY Adam H. Masia
Adam H. Masia
Reg. No. 35,602
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4284

Dated: March 16, 2004